

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A toner comprising:

toner particles comprising:

a binder resin; and

a colorant,

wherein the toner has such a rolling property as to relatively easily roll in one direction compared to other directions when the toner is present on a two-dimensional plane, wherein the toner satisfies the following relationships:

$$0.5 \leq (r_2/r_1) \leq 0.8, 0.7 \leq (r_3/r_2) \leq 1.0, \text{ and } r_3 \leq r_2 < r_1,$$

wherein r_1 , r_2 and r_3 represent an average major axis particle diameter, an average minor axis particle diameter and an average thickness of the toner particles.

Claim 2 (Original): The toner according to Claim 1, further comprising a charge controlling agent, wherein the charge controlling agent is fixed on a surface of the toner particles.

Claim 3 (Original): The toner according to Claim 2, wherein a content of the charge controlling agent is from 0.2 to 2.0 % by weight based on total weight of the toner.

Claim 4 (Original): The toner according to Claim 1, wherein the toner particles have a spindle form and a volume average particle diameter of from 3 to 8 μm .

Claim 5 (Canceled).

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The toner according to Claim [[5]] 1, wherein the average major axis particle diameter r_1 is from 5 to 9 μm , the average minor axis particle diameter r_2 is from 2 to 6 μm , and the average thickness r_3 is from 2 to 6 μm .

Claim 7 (Original): The toner according to Claim 6, wherein standard deviations of the average major axis particle diameter r_1 , the average minor axis particle diameter r_2 and the average thickness r_3 are not greater than 2.0 μm , 1.5 μm and 1.5 μm , respectively.

Claim 8 (Original): The toner according to Claim 6, wherein toner particles having a thickness r_3 not greater than 3 μm are included in an amount not greater than 30 % by weight based on the total weight of the toner.

Claim 9 (Original): The toner according to Claim 1, wherein the toner has an average form factor SF-2 of from 100 to 190, wherein a form factor of a toner particle is defined by the following formula (1):

$$\text{SF-2} = \{(\text{PERI})^2/\text{AREA}\} \times (100\pi/4) \quad (1)$$

wherein PERI and AREA respectively represent a periphery length and an area of an image of a toner particle projected on a two-dimensional plane.

Claim 10 (Original): The toner according to Claim 1, wherein particles of the toner relatively easily roll around a major axis direction thereof compared to other directions, and wherein a projection is present on an end portion of the particles in the major axis direction.

Claim 11 (Original): The toner according to Claim 1, wherein the toner has a charge quantity of from 15 to 40 $\mu\text{C/g}$ and a charge quantity distribution such that a half width of a charge quantity distribution curve is from 0.5 to 4.0 $\text{f C}/\mu\text{m}$.

Claim 12 (Original): The toner according to Claim 1, wherein the binder resin comprises a modified polyester resin.

Claim 13 (Original): The toner according to Claim 12, wherein the toner particles are prepared by a method comprising:

dissolving or dispersing a toner composition, which comprises the modified polyester resin, in an organic solvent to prepare a toner composition liquid; and
dispersing the toner composition liquid in an aqueous medium.

Claim 14 (Original): The toner according to Claim 12, wherein the toner particles are prepared by a method comprising:

dissolving or dispersing a toner composition, which comprises a polyester prepolymer, in an organic solvent to prepare a toner composition liquid; and
dispersing the toner composition liquid in an aqueous medium,
wherein the modified polyester resin is prepared from the prepolymer during the dissolving or dispersing process and the second dispersing process.

Claim 15 (Original): The toner according to Claim 1, wherein the binder resin comprises a modified polyester resin (i) and an unmodified polyester resin (ii), wherein a weight ratio (i/ii) is from 5/95 to 80/20.

Claim 16 (Original): The toner according to Claim 1, wherein the binder resin has a peak molecular weight of from 1,000 to 10,000.

Claim 17 (Original): The toner according to Claim 1, wherein the toner has a glass transition temperature of from 40 to 70°C.

Claim 18 (Original): The toner according to Claim 1, further comprising an external additive which is present on the surface of the toner particles.

Claim 19 (Original): The toner according to Claim 18, wherein the external additive is selected from the group consisting of hydrophobized silica and hydrophobized titanium oxide.

Claim 20 (Original): A developer comprising the toner according to Claim 1 and a carrier.

Claim 21 (Currently Amended): An image forming apparatus comprising:
an image bearing member configured to bear an electrostatic latent image thereon;
a developing device configured to develop the electrostatic latent image with a developer including the toner according to Claim 1 to form a toner image on the image bearing member, wherein said developing device contains said developer;
a transferring device configured to transfer the toner image onto a receiving material;
and
a cleaning device configured to clean a surface of the image bearing member.

Claim 22 (Currently Amended): A process cartridge for an image forming apparatus, comprising:

an image bearing member configured to bear an electrostatic latent image thereon; and

a developing device configured to develop the electrostatic latent image with a developer comprising the toner according to Claim 1 to form a toner image on the image bearing member, wherein said developing device contains said developer.

Claim 23 (New): A toner comprising:

toner particles comprising:

a binder resin; and

a colorant,

wherein the toner has such a rolling property as to relatively easily roll in one direction compared to other directions when the toner is present on a two-dimensional plane,

further comprising a charge controlling agent,

wherein the charge controlling agent is fixed on a surface of the toner particles,

wherein a content of the charge controlling agent is from 0.2 to 2.0 % by weight based on total weight of the toner,

wherein the toner particles have a spindle form and a volume average particle diameter of from 3 to 8 μm , and

wherein the toner satisfies the following relationships:

$0.5 \leq (r_2/r_1) \leq 0.8$, $0.7 \leq (r_3/r_2) \leq 1.0$, and $r_3 \leq r_2 < r_1$,

wherein r_1 , r_2 and r_3 represent an average major axis particle diameter, an average minor axis particle diameter and an average thickness of the toner particles.

Claim 24 (New): A toner comprising:

toner particles comprising:

a binder resin; and

a colorant,

wherein the toner has such a rolling property as to relatively easily roll in one direction compared to other directions when the toner is present on a two-dimensional plane,

further comprising a charge controlling agent, wherein the charge controlling agent is fixed on a surface of the toner particles,

wherein a content of the charge controlling agent is from 0.2 to 2.0 % by weight based on total weight of the toner,

wherein the toner satisfies the following relationships:

$0.5 \leq (r_2/r_1) \leq 0.8$, $0.7 \leq (r_3/r_2) \leq 1.0$, and $r_3 \leq r_2 < r_1$,

wherein r_1 , r_2 and r_3 represent an average major axis particle diameter, an average minor axis particle diameter and an average thickness of the toner particles, and

wherein the average major axis particle diameter r_1 is from 5 to 9 μm , the average minor axis particle diameter r_2 is from 2 to 6 μm , and the average thickness r_3 is from 2 to 6 μm .

Claim 25 (New): A toner comprising:

toner particles comprising:

a binder resin; and

a colorant,

further comprising a charge controlling agent, wherein the charge controlling agent is fixed on a surface of the toner particles,

wherein the toner satisfies the following relationships:

$$0.5 \leq (r_2/r_1) \leq 0.8, 0.7 \leq (r_3/r_2) \leq 1.0, \text{ and } r_3 \leq r_2 < r_1,$$

wherein r_1 , r_2 and r_3 represent an average major axis particle diameter, an average minor axis particle diameter and an average thickness of the toner particles.

Claim 26 (New): A toner comprising:

toner particles comprising:

a binder resin; and

a colorant,

further comprising a charge controlling agent, wherein the charge controlling agent is fixed on a surface of the toner particles,

wherein a content of the charge controlling agent is from 0.2 to 2.0 % by weight based on total weight of the toner,

wherein the toner particles have a spindle form and a volume average particle diameter of from 3 to 8 μm , and

wherein the toner satisfies the following relationships:

$$0.5 \leq (r_2/r_1) \leq 0.8, 0.7 \leq (r_3/r_2) \leq 1.0, \text{ and } r_3 \leq r_2 < r_1,$$

wherein r_1 , r_2 and r_3 represent an average major axis particle diameter, an average minor axis particle diameter and an average thickness of the toner particles.

Claim 27 (New): A toner comprising:

toner particles comprising:

a binder resin; and

a colorant,

further comprising a charge controlling agent, wherein the charge controlling agent is fixed on a surface of the toner particles,

wherein a content of the charge controlling agent is from 0.2 to 2.0 % by weight based on total weight of the toner,

wherein the toner satisfies the following relationships:

$$0.5 \leq (r_2/r_1) \leq 0.8, 0.7 \leq (r_3/r_2) \leq 1.0, \text{ and } r_3 \leq r_2 < r_1,$$

wherein r_1 , r_2 and r_3 represent an average major axis particle diameter, an average minor axis particle diameter and an average thickness of the toner particles, and

wherein the average major axis particle diameter r_1 is from 5 to 9 μm , the average minor axis particle diameter r_2 is from 2 to 6 μm , and the average thickness r_3 is from 2 to 6 μm .

DISCUSSION OF THE AMENDMENT

The specification has been amended to provide antecedent support for Claim 14; to correct reference to the appropriate figure, i.e., Fig. 3; and by capitalizing the term -- HENSCHEL--.

Claim 1 has been amended by incorporating the subject matter of Claim 5 therein; Claim 5 has been canceled. Claim 6 has been amended to depend on Claim 1. Claims 21 and 22 have each been amended to require that the developing device contain the recited developer.

New Claims 23-27 have been added. Claim 23 is based on the combination of original Claims 1-5. Claim 24 is based on the combination of original Claims 1-3, 5 and 6. Claim 25 is based on the combination of original Claims 2 and 5, but without the rolling property limitation of Claim 1. Claim 26 is based on the combination of original Claims 2-5, but without the rolling property limitation of Claim 1. Claim 27 is based on the combination of original Claims 2, 3, 5 and 6, but without the rolling property limitation of Claim 1.

No new matter is believed to have been added by the above amendment. Claims 1-4 and 6-27 are now pending in the application.